

defeated Haldane to win the New York State Class D Mens Varsity Baseball Championship, a terrific finish to an outstanding undefeated season. The Falcons, Section III Champions, won the state Class D final with a 6–2 triumph over Section I's Haldane to top off a 20–0 season and a dominant playoff run.

Previously, Fabius-Pompey, representing the Onondaga League, defeated the Oriskany Redskins of the Center State Conference in a 7–2 victory to retain the Section III, Class D Championship again this year, their third consecutive sectional title. In that game, the Falcons' star pitcher, junior Bryan Porter, entered the state record book for most consecutive innings without giving up an earned run. To advance to the State Final game, Fabius-Pompey later defeated Section IV champions Schenevus (7–0) and Section II champs Hermon-Dekalb (25–0). This year's title win against Haldane avenges a 1998 Class D State championship loss.

Talent emanates from the Fabius-Pompey dugout, with five players receiving Syracuse Newspapers' All CNY Baseball Team recognition, including Player of the Year Bryan Porter, First Team's Nate Bliss and Mike Shick, Third Team's Bob Virgil, and Honorable Mention Tim Wilcox. The team was led by All CNY Coach of the Year Shawn May, completing his ninth season leading the Falcons, and Assistant Coach Josh Virgil, himself a former Falcons fielder.

Members of the 2000 Class D Championship team include: Nate Bliss, Matt Crossman, Brandt Ford, Rob Keeney, Matthew Morse, Mitch Morse, Bill Orty, Brian Porter, Mike Shick, Jed Smith, Corey Spicer, Robert Virgil, and Tim Wilcox. Coaching staff includes Head Coach Shawn May, and Assistant Coaches Josh Virgil, Evan Eaton, and Jim Keegan.

I wish to celebrate the outstanding athletic achievements of these fine young men and recognize their scholastic and civic accomplishments as well. I join with the entire Fabius-Pompey community—including Falcons fans, parents and other family members, and educators and administrators—in extending sincere congratulations for a job well done. This strong group of fine young athletes deserves special recognition.

NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
AND MONTELLA, ITALY CELEBRATE
NINE YEARS OF SISTERHOOD

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable relationship between two wonderful cities—one here in the United States and the other in Italy. Nine years ago, the borough of Norristown in my district in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania and Montella, Italy established a Sister Cities program that has grown stronger each year.

Sister Cities International is an organization that motivates and empowers municipal officials, volunteers and youth to conduct long-term programs of mutual benefit and interest between two cities. Norristown and Montella have certainly taken advantage of this program. Norristown is an active participant in the

Sister Cities program and has been fortunate to develop a partnership with people of Montella in the Province of Avellino, Italy. Montella is the home for many first and second generation Italian Americans who now reside in Norristown.

Thanks to the continued efforts of Norristown officials including Mayor Ted LeBlanc and officials from Montella including Mayor Bruno Fierro and Councilperson Carmelina Chiaradonna, this relationship has been successful in creating an atmosphere in which economic, cultural and personal ties have been implemented and strengthened.

Later this month, Joseph Byrnes, President of the Norristown Borough Council, will travel to Montella to visit Norristown's Sister City. I hope this experience, like the other personal, cultural and governmental contacts over the past nine years, will be enriching and enlightening, and I am pleased to have him represent Norristown on this exciting occasion.

A TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY COHEN

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Orange County's senior citizens it is my distinct honor to pay tribute to a great leader, my friend, Shirley Cohen. On June 30 of this year, Shirley retired from the Feedback Foundation at the age of 81. However, for anyone who knows Shirley retirement is not the accurate word. Shirley is merely transitioning from Feedback to become a full time political activist.

In the more than 23 years since Shirley founded Feedback it has served more than twenty million meals to frail elderly in their homes as well as to active elders who come daily to senior centers and community centers throughout the County. Shirley's outstanding work in Orange County has been recognized at the state and national level. Shirley has served with distinction as the President of the California Association of Nutrition Directors. She is also the founder of the group which is now the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs.

Shirley Cohen is a unique individual. She is creative, committed and deeply compassionate about the needs of seniors. She is often called upon by policy makers at all levels to help develop measures that will provide home and community services for seniors.

In 1995 Shirley was invited to join the White House's Conference on Aging staff. During her service to the White House Conference she made important, enduring contributions to the resolutions that were adopted and have since become the foundation for the aging policy during this decade.

There are few words to fully describe Shirley Cohen. I do know one—inde-fatigable. Shirley works all the time for Feedback in the community at meetings and forums. She is more than just a friendly face—she is force for positive change.

The people of Orange County and especially our senior citizens have had a tireless friend and advocate with Shirley Cohen. I know I will still see Shirley around town or hear from her on some important legislative issue at any time.

The Orange County Board of Supervisors recently passed a Resolution honoring Shirley Cohen.

Shirley Cohen epitomizes our definition of a great public servant and a wonderful productive resource as a senior citizen. I am very pleased to pay tribute to her today.

RESOLUTION APOLOGIZING FOR SLAVERY

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I include the following remarks for the RECORD.

INTRODUCTION

In 1865, Alexis de Tocqueville wrote, "When they have abolished slavery, the moderns still have to eradicate a much more intangible and tenacious prejudice—the prejudice of race. Differences [between races] have lasted for centuries, and they still subsist in very many places; everywhere they have left traces which, though imaginary, time is hardly able to obliterate. I see slavery is in retreat, but the prejudice from which it arose is immovable."

Those words, written over a century ago, unfortunately still ring true today.

WHY I INTRODUCED THE APOLOGY

A few years ago, I saw a television program with a black minister and a white minister commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday. They mentioned that there had never been an official apology for slavery. With the Civil War, with all that President Abraham Lincoln achieved, and with the Civil Rights Movement's successes, I found that hard to believe.

So I went to the Library of Congress and discovered that they were right—no one in the Government of the United States had ever apologized for slavery. I set out to correct this glaring omission in history, and in 1997, I introduced my simple resolution without much fanfare.

What happened next was a complete surprise. Debate about my resolution erupted at about the same time President Clinton began his "National Dialogue on Race." Some dismissed it as "a meaningless gesture" or "an avoidance of problem-solving." Some felt, as I still do, that this apology was overdue.

I received hundreds of letters and phone calls about the apology. Many of the people I heard from opposed the idea and some were outright hateful.

I know that my resolution will not fix the lingering injustices that were and are slavery's legacy. But, in any human relationship, reconciliation begins with an apology. I hope the official apology my resolution seeks will be the start of a new healing between the people of our country.

After taking care of my District, I focus on hunger and human rights. I have seen these problems in communities around our nation and the world, but I am not an expert on issues of race. What I do know, because I have seen it in rich and poor communities alike, is that there are deep divisions in our country's past and our present.

My faith leads me to a clear purpose for my life: to love God, and to love others as I would love myself. I know that I would not want my children sold as slaves. I know that it would

tear me apart if my wife was taken from my arms and given to another man. I know that I would be angry if I was beaten, whipped and killed because of the color of my skin. I do not want that for my neighbors, whether they live down the street or half a world away.

Americans have tried to heal our race problems many times before today, but perhaps we can find more lasting solutions if we change our approach. We have started new programs, invested money, and written countless reports. But, I say with respect, that has not been enough. We need to acknowledge the past, recognize the present, and hope for the future.

WHY WE STILL NEED TO APOLOGIZE

Personal Reasons

There are numerous reasons why Congress should apologize for its role in promoting and sustaining slavery. First, it is the right thing to do. If you offend your spouse or a friend, you have to say you are sorry in order to go forward in your relationship. It is so basic that we teach our kids from an early age—say you are sorry, or you can't play anymore; apologize, or you have to go to your room.

These three words—I am sorry—are a foundation for beginning again, a small price to pay for restoring lost trust, and a necessary first step in moving forward constructively.

Others have said it better.

"An apology would show that my government and president believe the enslavement of Africans for national gain was a grave and revolting wrong. It will document in stone for years to come the country's repentance for a tremendous crime. It is the right thing to do," a woman wrote to me in 1997.

"The fact that you want to apologize, says to me personally, that you recognize and accept my pain, the pain of my ancestors, and that you care about it," another letter said, ". . . in my lifetime, no one has done that."

"A general expression of sorrow is the starting point of any healing process," a journalist for USA Today said. "Of course, an apology has to be followed by serious acts of contrition, but any attempt at reconciliation that begins without one cannot be taken seriously."

I was most heartened by the thoughtful people like Clarence Page of the Chicago Tribune, whose first reaction was "why should we apologize?" but who came, to the conclusion, "why shouldn't we?"

This apology will not solve all of the problems, but it will begin new progress on issues that still divide Americans. It is never too late to admit a wrong and to ask for forgiveness. In giving those our nation wronged the dignity of this honest admission, we might all enjoy some measure of healing. And it will set the right example for our children.

Historical Reasons

Another reason to apologize for slavery is the historical precedent it will set. There have been many public apologies offered in recent years. In 1988, Congress apologized to Japanese-Americans for imprisoning them during World War II. In 1993, Congress offered a formal apology to native Hawaiians for the role the United States played in overthrowing the Kingdom of Hawaii a century before.

Other countries have also apologized: Britain's Prime Minister apologized to Irish people

for failing to help the millions of people who suffered and died during the great potato famine of the 19th century. East Germany's legislature issued an apology for the atrocities committed against the Jews during the Holocaust. Japan's emperor formally apologized to Korea for its conduct during its colonial period.

Slavery has been an important focus of recent apologies. In 1993, Pope John Paul II apologized for the Catholic Church's support for slavery, and for the violence of the 16th Century Counter Reformation. In 1994, the State of Florida apologized and paid reparations for its role in the 1923 Rosewood riots. The same year, the Southern Baptist Convention apologized for its past support of slavery. In 1999, the United Methodist Church's West Ohio Conference called for white Methodists to apologize for their ancestors' role in slavery.

Unfortunately, America's history is littered with many examples of missed opportunities to address the "peculiar institution" of slavery. When our Founding Fathers declared that "all men are created equal," we could have truly included everyone. When we established the Constitution as the rule of law for our new country, we could have treated slaves as full and equal, instead of treating them as three-fifths of a person. When the Supreme Court made its rulings, when our nation amended the Constitution, or when Congress wrote Civil Rights laws—at any of these moments in our history, we could have apologized for slavery. But we failed, and now we must go back and finish our history's chapter on slavery.

CONCLUSION

Last December, at the invitation of Benin's President, I attended a conference he convened on slavery and reconciliation. As I told the many dignitaries who attended, the tragedy of slavery and the curse that came with it will not simply disappear with time. All of us live with the legacy of slavery. Africans' descendants suffer from the guilt of having sold their brothers and sisters, and the effects of exploitation. Europeans' descendants are cursed with a divided society, blind to the fact that our own privilege perpetuates that division, and unaware of the need to repent. And African-Americans are plagued by the remnants of the institution of slavery and the consequences of bitterness.

Apologizing is humbling. To admit to a wrong, you expose your wounds and warts for all the world to see. But the United States is a great country, and it should be big enough to admit its mistakes. And it should be wise enough to do whatever is necessary to heal its divisions. I believe this apology is faithful to our past, and essential to our future.

H. CON. RES. 356

Acknowledging the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies, and for other purposes.

Whereas approximately 4,000,000 Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and the 13 American colonies in the period 1619 through 1865;

Whereas slavery was a grave injustice that caused and continues to cause African-Americans to suffer enormous damages and losses, both material and intangible, including the loss of human dignity and liberty, the frustration of careers and professional lives, and the long-term loss of income and opportunity;

Whereas slavery in the United States denied African-Americans the fruits of their own labor and was an immoral and inhumane deprivation of life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, citizenship rights, and cultural heritage;

Whereas, although the achievements of African-Americans in overcoming the evils of slavery stand as a source of tremendous inspiration, the successes of slaves and their descendants do not overwrite the failure of the Nation to grant all Americans their birthright of equality and the civil rights that safeguard freedom;

Whereas an apology is an important and necessary step in the process of racial reconciliation, because a sincere apology accompanied by an attempt at real restitution is an important healing interaction;

Whereas a genuine apology may restore damaged relationships, whether they are between 2 people or between groups of people;

Whereas African-American art, history, and culture reflects experiences of slavery and freedom, and continued struggles for full recognition of citizenship and treatment with human dignity, and there is inadequate presentation, preservation, and recognition of the contributions of African-Americans within American society;

Whereas there is a great need for building institutions and monuments to promote cultural understanding of African-American heritage and further enhance racial harmony;

Whereas it is proper and timely for the Congress to recognize June 19, 1865, the historic day when the last group of slaves were informed of their freedom, to acknowledge the historic significance of the abolition of slavery, to express deep regret to African-Americans, and to support reconciliation efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

That the Congress—

(A) acknowledges the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies;

(B) apologizes to African-Americans on behalf of the people of the United States, for the wrongs committed against their ancestors who suffered as slaves;

(C) expresses condemnation of and repudiates the gross and wanton excesses perpetrated against African-Americans while the institution of slavery existed;

(D) recognizes the Nation's need to redress these events;

(E) commends efforts of reconciliation initiated by organizations and individuals concerned about civil rights and civil liberties and calls for a national initiative of reconciliation among the races; and

(F) expresses commitment to rectify misdeeds of slavery done in the past and to discourage the occurrence of human rights violations in the future; and

(2) it is the sense of the Congress that—

(A) a commission should be established—

(i) to examine the institution of slavery, subsequent racial and economic discrimination against African-Americans as a matter of law and as a matter of fact, and the impact of slavery and such discrimination on living African-Americans;

(ii) to issue a standardized, historical curriculum for use in public schools on the institution of slavery in the United States; and

(iii) to explore the possibility of establishing a scholarship and research fund; and

(B) a National museum and memorial should be established regarding slavery as it relates to the history of the United States, and other significant African-American history.